

Roxbury, Jan. 13, 1873.

My dear Johnson:

Accept my special thanks for your letter of Thursday, urging me to write my autobiography, with particular reference to certain phases of the Anti-Slavery struggle. Out of my regard to your opinion and that of other cherished friends, I cannot say nay; yet I am not quite ready to respond affirmatively in a public manner, lest nothing should come of it. I do not know that I should object to a request being sent to me in the manner you designate, as it would relieve such a publication of what otherwise might appear to some like self-prompting to be conspicuous and well-remembered — a trait which is more or less visible in almost every autobiography; and it might act as a stimulus in the preparation of the work. Yet, per-



haps, it may be better to let your private suggestion be sufficient as a reminder and an incentive. Personally - now that slavery is abolished, and its victims are clothed with all the rights and immunities of American citizenship, to the complete vindication of the Anti-Slavery movement - I care little or nothing for the judgment of posterity; yet there is something due to historical verity, and <sup>to</sup> the cause of freedom and humanity on the broadest scale. .

I seriously doubt, however, whether what I might write would find a considerable sale; for we are drifting away so rapidly from our old but sublime conflict, and there are now so many new issues presented to the popular mind, that in all probability comparatively few would be led to purchase or read such a work as you propose. Yet I must admit that the question as to how many copies might be sold is of secondary importance. The per-



nishing of the various public libraries in the land with copies of it would alone justify its preparation, if well done. That if it is of some significance.

Unfortunately, in regard to the many incidents and events connected with my career, my memory is like a sieve into which water has been poured; and a good memory in such a case is almost a sine qua non. But, I assure you, I will take your proposition into serious consideration.

The postman has just brought me the two numbers (with the last one in December) of the Christian Union for which I have been looking. I have cursorily glanced at their contents, and find a great variety of instructive and entertaining reading.

I was mistaken in saying that I had already purchased the chromos "Asleep" and "Awake," which you said would be transmitted to me. They are



-as Frank tells me - wholly different from those I possess; and, therefore, they may be forwarded to me, as at first proposed, unless the new chromo has already been sent in their stead. Do you send such by the post or by express? In either case, let the direction be 125 Highland Street, Roxbury, or Boston Highlands.

I did not know that Dr. Leavitt was the author of the article in The Independent on the death of Mr. Greeley. I thought it was discriminating and just, without any indication of "hatred" or asperity. While I respect your exalted estimation of Mr. Greeley, I share it only to a very limited extent. I was never drawn to him in any way, regarding him as the incarnation of the spirit of American compromise, to the sacrifice, subordination, or postponement of fundamental principles.

Yours, to the heart's core,  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.